to a compression algorithm employed in the data source apparatus ~~unit~~, and wherein the data source ~~source data~~ apparatus ~~unit~~ capability information extracted from the watermark includes information identifying said compression algorithm, the apparatus further comprising a multimedia data decompression unit configured based on said information identifying said compression algorithm to decompress the multimedia data.

33. (currently amended) The destination apparatus of claim 29, wherein the watermark detector comprises an extraction mask unit configured to logically combine the multimedia data containing the watermark with a data extraction mask and a signature extraction mask, and to output a multimedia data frame having the watermark extracted and a signature signal containing the ~~source data~~ data source apparatus ~~unit~~ capability information.

34. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A destination apparatus for communicating with a data source unit, comprising:

means for receiving a data transmission message ~~unit~~ containing a data stream having a watermark, the watermark containing information concerning a plurality of capabilities of a data source apparatus ~~unit~~; and

means for determining, based on the watermark, said plurality of capabilities of the data source apparatus ~~unit~~.

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. Claims 1-9, 13, 14, 16, 18-34 are amended by this Amendment.

The Office Action objects to some informalities in claims 25 and 34, and those informalities have been corrected by this amendment.

The corrections to the drawings made previously by preliminary amendment have been resubmitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121(d).

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 8-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being allegedly anticipated by European Patent No. 1,098,522 to Stone et al. ("Stone"). In

addition, the Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stone in view of PCT Patent Publication WO 97/48212 to Kari et al. ("Kari").

Stone describes a technique that involves including a material identifier into video and/or audio and/or data material. The identifier identifies the material and may also identify the owner of the material. In addition, Stone describes that the identifier links the material to a database containing metadata about the material.

By contrast, the present invention is directed to including a watermark in a data stream that is transmitted by a first device (data source device or apparatus) to a second device or apparatus (destination device or apparatus). The watermark indicates an attribute of the first device. For example, the watermark may indicate one or more capabilities of the first device and the second device may use this information to determine how to configure itself to process the data stream, for example.

Thus, the present invention relates to including a watermark in a data stream that relates to an attribute of the device that transmitted the data stream. Stone does not describe or suggest that the watermarks are generated in relation to an attribute of the data source device, as recited in the independent claims.

For these reasons, the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-34 in view of Stone should be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of claim 7 based on the combination of Stone and Kari, the following remarks are provided. Kari describes compressing and transmitting data on a connection between two parties in a telecommunication system. There are at least two different compression algorithms for the transmitting party and two different decompression algorithms for the receiving party. As a result, Kari requires a negotiation protocol between the two parties.

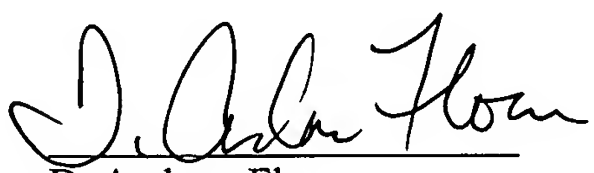
By contrast, according to the present invention, the compression algorithm used by the source device is identified in the watermark information. Therefore, when the destination device receives the watermark in the data stream from the source device, it can select the decompression algorithm needed to undue the source compression. Importantly, no negotiation is needed between the source and destination device as to

which compression algorithm to employ prior to transmitting the data stream from the source device to the destination device.

It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn as well.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned with any questions or comments in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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